

SUB A³

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1. A method of parallel operation in a multiple access network having a plurality of communicating nodes and communication network facilities comprising the steps of:
 - (a) allocating a plurality of communicating channels in addition to a regular communicating channel some of which may be used as spare contention resolution channels;
 - (b) assigning from said plurality of communicating channels dynamically to communicating nodes which have implemented improved protocol for contention resolution process;
 - (c) switching to assigned contention resolution channels upon detecting contention for nodes which have implemented improved protocol and involved in said contention;
 - (d) staying on said original channel for nodes which have not implemented improved protocol or have not involved in said contention;
 - (e) performing contention resolution process on said assigned contention resolution channels in parallel to the normal process on said regular channel;
 - (f) reverting back to said regular channel upon completion of contention resolution process for said nodes which have switched to assigned contention resolution channel; and
 - (g) resuming normal process.
2. In a method of parallel operation in a multiple access network according to claim 1, said step of allocating contention resolution channel comprising the step of allocating using dedicated time slots.
3. In a method of parallel operation in a multiple access network according to claim 1, said step of allocating contention resolution channel comprising the step of allocating using separate frequency band.
4. In a method of parallel operation in a multiple access network according to claim 1, said step of allocating contention resolution channel comprising the step of allocating using coding scheme.
5. In a method of parallel operation in a multiple access network according to claim 1, said step of allocating contention resolution channel comprising the step of allocating using separate

(f) reverting meaning for switching back to said regular channel upon completion of contention resolution process; and

(g) resuming means for resuming normal process.

add A^S

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